WORLD / A26

Monks say China lying about stability restored in Tibet

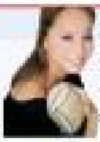
Big belly in middle age triples risk of dementia



NEW YORK—HAVING a big belly in your 40s nearly triples your risk of getting Alzheimer's or other dementia decades later, a new study suggests.

Considering that 50

BIG BELLY A11



LIFESTYLE / H1

Success is in the bag as Celestina becomes red carpet celebs' must-have

NEWS / A8

Pulse Asia survey: Villar, De Castro top performance ratings

Nene targets father-in-law of agri chief

By Dona Pazzibugan, Amy R. Remo and Franklin Caliguid

SENATE MINORITY LEADER AQUILINO "Nene" Pimentel Jr. yesterday asked Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap to disclose if his father-in-law Jimmy Gow was involved in the rice trade.

Pimentel said he received reports that Yap's father-in-law was "supposedly a cereal trader, either of rice or corn," in Metro Manila.

"So I said, he has to reply to my ques-

NENE TARGETS A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Friday, March 28, 2008 ★★ 14 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 109 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Big business hits SC ruling

Protesters hound Neri at UP meeting

By Norman Bordadora

ROMULO NERI YESTERDAY SAT WITH one of his interrogators at the Senate as he presided over a meeting of the University of the Philippines' Board of Regents on the UP campus in Diliman, Quezon City.

But before doing so, Neri, a former socioeconomic planning secretary and now chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), was met by an in-your-face protest action by a handful of UP faculty members and nonacademic personnel.

The UP employees waited for Neri on the steps of UP's Quezon Hall and, as he alighted from his vehicle at about 9 a.m. and made his way into the building escorted by bodyguards, shouted and waved placards bearing slogans demanding that he tell the truth about the scandal-ridden National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp.

"No words were said about the Senate hearings, but one could feel the tension [at the meeting]," Sen. Alan Peter

PROTESTERS A11



HOSTILE RECEPTION Romulo Neri puts on a happy face even as members of the UP community hold a lightning rally.

'GMA privilege given value than public's right to know'

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan, Michael Lim Ubac and Jeannette I. Andrade

THE INFLUENTIAL Makati Business Club (MBC) yesterday said the Supreme Court decision on executive privilege did not conform to the "progressive standards of transparency" and restricted the ability of the legislature to check presidential abuse.

In a statement, the MBC said it was "very concerned" about the tribunal's ruling on the petition of then Director General Romulo Neri of the National Economic and Development Authority to stop the Senate from questioning him further on the $329-million National Broadband Network (NBN) deal with China's ZTE Corp.

"Their decision gives greater value to executive privilege than to the public's right to know, which is not in keeping with progressive standards of transparency. It also has the effect of restricting the ability of the legislature to act as a countervailing force against executive abuse," the MBC said.

"We respect the court's deci-

BIG BUSINESS A11

'Peculiar' SC decision perils amparo cases, says lawyer

By Jerome Aning

FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE GROUP CHAIR Jose Manuel Diokno yesterday said he found the Supreme Court's ruling in the case of former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri "odd and peculiar" and it could have an impact on victims of human rights abuses seeking judicial relief.

Diokno said at a news conference that the majority of the justices based their decision on the "compelling need" test established by the US Supreme Court in the Watergate case involving President Richard Nixon.

He said the Philippine justices recognized that the Nixon case differed from Neri's because while Nixon challenged a grand jury's right to order that he produce the tapes of his conversations, Neri ques-

PECULIAR A11



RISING TO THE OCCASION Igorot farmers in Philippang, Mountain Province, harvest their palay with great care and with some pomp and circumstance complete with ritualistic headgear of rice stalks. It is a ceremony they learned from their ancestors. In the Cordilleras, farmers are expected to produce 190,000 metric tons of rice by June.

Irri: RP rice harvests double that of Thailand

RICE FIELDS IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE nearly double those of Thailand, the world's top exporter, yet as in Indonesia "there is just not enough land," said Robert Zeigler, president of the International Rice Research Institute (Irri).

The Philippines and Indonesia combined have nearly 300 million mouths to feed and are among the most vulnerable consumers of the grain as inflation-adjusted rice prices recently spiked close to historical highs.

The Philippines has imported rice almost every year since 1980, while Java, Indonesia's most populous island, has been an importer since the 19th century, according to Irri economist David Dawe.

"I hope that if the situation becomes tight in the Philippines, the Filipinos will not point fingers at the Filipino rice farmer," Zeigler said at Irri headquarters in Los Baños, Laguna.

Rice is the staple of half of humanity but only a handful of countries have

IRRI A20

Fr. Bernas prays for 'gentlewoman' in yellow

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF CORAZON Aquino attended a private Mass last night at Ateneo Professional Schools in Makati City that was highlighted by what a supporter called "a beautiful, solemn prayer" for the former President's recovery from colon cancer.

"People who love her are getting together because they want to pray for her," Leah Navarro of the civil society group Black and White Movement (BWM) said in a statement.

"For those who are thinking that the opposition is weakened, they can never be more wrong. We gain strength from this," Navarro said, adding that people from different walks of life were united in wishing the Philippines' icon of democracy good health.

A prayer for Aquino's speedy recovery was circulated during the hour-long Mass celebrated by Fr. Joaquin Bernas and Fr. Catalino Arevalo.

"Help her to completely surrender her illness to you. We pray also for her entire family for strength, courage and faith," part of the prayer read.

It also contained a plea for Aquino's full recovery and "fullness and whole-

FR. BERNAS A20



DOUBLE TROUBLE FOR INSURGENTS: Police Inspectors Danilo and Daniel Yema Jr.

PNP academy graduates 1st identical twins

By Alcuin Papa

THE FIRST IDENTICAL TWINS TO graduate from the Philippine National Police Academy (PNPA) are raring to inflict double damage on insurgents and criminals in the country.

Danilo Yema Jr. and twin brother Daniel yesterday graduated 29th and 42nd, respectively, as members of PNPA

PNP ACADEMY A18

Fil-Ams make dreams come true



SCHOLARS graduating cum laude from Pangasinan State University, from left, Auralyn Balitan, Ma. Theresa Molleda, Jo Ann Bandong, Chona Nigparos.

By Gabriel Cardinoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—FOUR years ago, Jo Ann Bandong had given up all hope she would ever attend college. It was a most trying time for her family.

Her father was facing a string of estafa cases at the time for his failure to pay his debts. The milkfish in the fishponds he was tending had been swept to the sea by floodwaters, and he never recovered in his business.

"I felt hopeless," said Bandong, who was graduating then as an honor stu-

FIL-AMS A18

WEATHER FORECAST

Second

FRONTPAGE

SIX DIGIT

SUERTRES

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

P216,452,088.00

Palace eyes 'diesel coupons'

What tapes? Abalos lawyer asks JDV son

Coco levy, Malampaya funds may be tapped to subsidize discounts

INSTEAD OF GIVING WAY TO the oil companies' proposal to reduce the expanded value-added tax (VAT) on diesel products by six percent, President Macapagal-Arroyo would rather give the discount directly in the form of cash subsidies to target beneficiaries.

Target beneficiaries

Wrong message



WHAT'S INSIDE







An Easter Message

HELPING THE POOR TO HELP OURSELVES

It is never too late to say a good word. Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW) Chairman and Industrialist Raul T. Concepcion urges everyone to draw inspiration and guidance from Pope Benedict's Easter message encouraging us to assist those in need, especially in these trying times.

WE HAVE BEEN DISTRACTED ENOUGH. IT IS TIME TO FOCUS ON THE NEEDS OF THE POOR.

There is no escaping the fact that we are in a far greater crisis than we have ever been since Edsa 1. Escalating oil prices in the world market and shortages in basic food commodities, will greatly affect the poorest of the poor - ***in Metro Manila***, comprising ***752,000 families*** or ***3 million persons.***

While COPW had sounded the alarm as early as November of last year, we are glad that now, FINALLY, attention is being given to this harsh reality.

WHAT MUST BE DONE

Focus. We must channel all our energies and resources towards addressing the needs of the poor. And these needs are basic. ***Food on the table. Affordable transport fare. Cheaper medicines. Jobs. A roof over their heads. Education for children.*** People power as we know it will not get the job done. Edsa 1 and 2 have not resulted in economic freedom for our poor. Despite recent robust growth rates, the Philippines remains one of the slowest growing economies in Asia. We must constantly remember that hunger can lead to anger and frustration.

Unity. We must all join hands and be united. ***Solving the crisis means overcoming political affiliation, religious belief and social status.*** Government, the private sector, business, NGOs, the Church, civil society must all come together and work as a team.

Transparency. Distrust in government comes from a perception of lack in transparency as evidenced by negative governance indicators. ***Corruption is best countered by transparency and level playing fields.***

Accountability. A system of audit and sanctions must strictly be followed and enforced. ***Greed, apathy and corruption worsen only if no one is held accountable for misdeeds.***

COPW BELIEVES WE HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO MEET THE CRISIS

ENOUGH FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO PROVIDE SAFETY NETS FOR THE POOREST OF THE POOR AMONG WHICH ARE:

1. Food subsidies

   Through the DSWD and in cooperation with business, NGOs, and the Church, a rationing program can be implemented. Basic food commodities such as rice, noodles, pandesal, chicken, pork, milk, coffee and cooking oil can be made available to identified and auditable households in Metro Manila's depressed areas.

   - COPW is working closely with the DSWD and has been assigned to ***AHON Pamilya Pinoy Program*** in Pasay City and Caloocan City.
   - There are 37 depressed barangays in Pasay City with total families of 17,500. 8.5% or 825 families were validated and another round of surveys will be done to reach the DSWD target of 1,500 qualified families in Pasay City. In Caloocan, there are 38 depressed barangays with total families of 44,150. 3.8 % or 1,057 families have been validated. Again, another round of survey will be done to reach the target of 1,500 qualified families.
   - The package for health care is P6,000 per family a year and for education, ONLY 3 children per family will be qualified for a rice subsidy worth P3,000 per child or P9,000 a year.
   - ***COPW will share its experience with business, civil society, and church groups and ask them to adopt a barangay of their choice and volunteer their services in implementing the health, education, and food rationing programs.*** This will ensure that food subsidies are delivered and received by qualified households.
   - In this regard, the DSWD is soliciting our help to ensure that transparency and accountability is observed as they go through the process of identifying which of the poorest of the poor are accredited to the program.

2. With oil prices at a record high, the transport sector will petition for a fare increase and will have a domino effect. To prevent this, ***the DOE must fast-track the shift to CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) which costs only P14.52 per liter compared to diesel at P 38.96, a savings of P 24.44 per liter.*** The savings are equivalent to P 4,888 a day for a city bus running 200 km a day.

3. COPW is appreciative of the decision of the President that the ***funds to subsidize ONLY the transport sector will come from the government share from royalties in Malampaya.***

   This subsidy is temporary as DTI will accelerate the acquisition of new or second-hand buses from Korea & Japan and extend DTI financing.

THE MOST CRITICAL ISSUE THAT IS FACING US TODAY IS THE PLIGHT OF OUR POOR. IN THIS REGARD, WE NEED TO RESURRECT OUR VALUES OF COMPASSION, TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

IN HELPING THE POOR, WE HELP OURSELVES, WE HELP OUR PEOPLE. WE HELP THE NATION.

For online posting of COPW issues, log on to http://groups.yahoo.com/group/COPW/

COPW
CONSUMER & OIL PRICE WATCH
Serving and Protecting the Filipino Consumer

RAUL T. CONCEPCION
Chairman

We will appreciate getting feedback from you.
Text 0917-8103363 if you agree or have any comments on the COPW position. Thank you.



We are driven to serve.
MITSUBISHI MOTORS PHILIPPINES
500,000
UNIT SALES
MILESTONE
For the past 37 years, we at Mitsubishi Motors Philippines have kept tens and thousands of Filipino owners satisfied by providing cutting-edge, high value and reliable vehicles. Now that we've reached the 500,000 unit sales milestone, we'd like to thank you for your continued trust and confidence in us as we create more quality innovations to keep you driving inspired.
Drive Inspired

Correction

[illegible]

AFP 'HELLO GARCI' PROBE

Mayuga report to remain secret

By Nikko Dizon

[illegible]



YANO

[illegible]

Extended

[illegible]

Generals cleared

[illegible]

Budget dep't to carry out reforms in procurement

By Michelle V. Remo

[illegible]

Veto gave GMA more leeway on budget, says Pimentel

By Dona Pazzibugan



PIMENTEL

[illegible]

Coming soon: RP edition of Playboy

MANILA—A PHILIPPINE EDITION OF Playboy will debut on newsstands next week, but the traditionally racy magazine will not show frontal nudity, the editor-in-chief said Thursday.

Being Lapu Dolor said the monthly magazine—synonymous the world over with centerfolds of bare-breasted women—will feature "anything under the sun of interest to men," combining the work of investigative journalists and award-winning fiction writers.

Dolor told The Associated Press he believed the predominantly Roman Catholic Philippines would be more tolerant toward Playboy than neighboring Indonesia, where the magazine was met with violent opposition from Islamic groups.

American editions of the magazine are already available in Manila and other major Philippine cities.

"I don't think the Christian community here, after seeing it, will be any angrier than [they are] and say (toward) FHM or Maxim," he said, referring to two other international men's magazines that have released local editions in the Philippines.

No frontal nudity

"I think a lot of the church people, especially the more liberal ones, will appreciate what we are trying to do in terms of quality and content."

Dolor said Playboy Philippines will feature Filipino women as "playmates" in the centerfold, but won't show full frontal nudity or genitalia because that would run counter to Philippine business and cultural considerations.

"Maybe one nipple," he said.

"If you have something like full frontal nudity, the chances are you will make a lot of enemies in the church, NGOs (nongovernmental organizations), even in the government," he said. "We don't want to risk our copies being burned."

He added that local advertisers won't pay for space in such magazines.

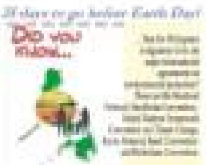
"It's not necessary to go all out like that. We're not engaged in any race with any magazine in being (lewd)."

Indecency laws

Last year, the editor-in-chief of Playboy Indonesia faced charges of violating indecency laws in the world's most populous Muslim nation, but was acquitted.

Though Playboy Indonesia is less risque than other magazines sold in the country, rock-throwing conservatives demanded that it be shut down immediately after it hit newsstands in 2006.

Dolor said Playboy Philippines—targeting mature, successful men—would feature typical Filipino beauties but not celebrities, along with fashion, motoring, sports and technology features. Thirty percent of its content will come from the US edition. **AP**







PULSE ASIA SURVEY

De Castro, Villar tops in ratings



Latest survey

Face-to-face interviews

Bar exams results out any day now

By Leila B. Salaverria





LIGHT MOMENTS. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo shares a light moment with Vice President Noli de Castro during yesterday's 29th Philippine National Police Academy graduation.

Puno probes PNPA alumni ad

By Julie M. Aurelio

With a report from Alcuin Papa

GMA to new police officers: Be apolitical

By Michael Lim Ubac

Charge of the Light Brigade

PNP academy graduates first identical twins



Fil-Ams make dreams come true for 12 deserving poor



Protesters hound Neri at UP Board of Regents meeting

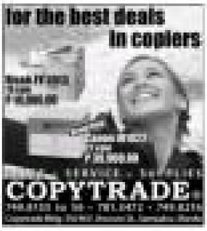
RP sailors losing edge due to stifling rules













Ladislao Bonus death centenary celebrated today













Big business hits SC ruling; 'GMA privilege give

From page A1

tion as we respect the rule of law. But we hope that this is not the final word on the matter. We believe the Senate is disposed to challenge the decision as it is in its best interest, and that of the public, to do so.

"Since the vote was not a resounding mandate in favor of executive privilege, we trust that the justices will consider society's need for greater transparency and thus give more weight in future deliberations in favor of the right to public information," the MBC said.

The MBC is composed of more than 800 chief executive officers and senior executives representing almost 450 of the largest corporations in the Philippines. It was organized in 1981 during the regime of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos to serve as a forum for constructive ideas.

The club has demanded the resignation of Neri, who is now chair of the Commission on Higher Education, and Environment Secretary Lito Atienza for allegedly attempting to cover up Malacañang's involvement in the ZTE deal.

MBC executive director Alberto Lim fell short of calling on President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign in a recent interview with Reuters news agency. He was quoted as saying: "If the price of good governance is a little instability, then we pay the price. If it means a change of regime, by all means let's go through the pain before we get the gain. We can't stand on a very shaky political foundation."

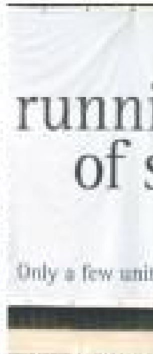
Voting 9-6, the high court on Tuesday nullified an arrest order issued by the Senate against Neri and said he was within his rights to refuse to answer three follow-up questions during his Sept. 26, 2007, appearance after his disclosure that he had told Ms Arroyo he had been offered a P200-million bribe allegedly by former Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos to approve the ZTE deal.

Reconsideration

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the upper chamber would seek a reconsideration of the tribunal's decision.

"Whether we succeed or not, the important thing is, for the purposes of records, the Senate will be seen as fighting to the very end in asserting our powers and duties, rather than giving way to this erroneous decision," he said.

Pimentel questioned the court faulting the Senate for failing to publish its rules on conducting inquiries, which includes the power to cite in contempt and



THE SKYLINE OF MANILA, a city ... scores are being built. The signs ... estate boom here, thanks to the ...

order the arrest of reluctant witnesses.

He said the rules had long been published in national newspapers and there was no need to republish them every time a new set of 12 senators was elected to office.

Unconstitutional

"Unlike the House of Representatives, whose term ends completely every three years, the Senate is a continuing body. The rules of the Senate continue for as long as the Senate is in place," he said.

Romulo Macalintal, an election lawyer, said that without the rules, the Senate could not proceed with its hearings. "Without such published rules, any such investigation by the Senate is unconstitutional," he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye added: "If those rules have not been published in the first place, ...





BUNYE: Government will make appropriate explanation to international community.

BAD REVIEW Elaine Pearson, Human Rights Watch ... Asia, holds up copies of her group's report ... the Philippines during a press conference ... murders of political dissidents and the failure ... to charge or convict a single military ...

SC decision on Neri perils

From page A1

rhyme a legislative inquiry.

"This means that any time the executive department invokes executive privilege, the burden is on the petitioner to prove that there is a compelling need for the limitation of the privilege. So the court will not issue a remedy if the petitioner will not show a compelling need," Diokno said.

Diokno said the high court's refusal to order information disclosed without evidence of compelling need might inadvertently cause a constitutional crisis if the legislative branch continued to challenge the executive.

Clash among 3 gov't branches

"If that happens, the clash between the legislature and the executive cannot be resolved by the judiciary. They will be at loggerheads, and they'll keep hitting, butting heads all the time. That's where the constitutional crisis may emerge," he said.

Diokno said the justices also cited a 2002 case, lawyer Francisco Chavez v. Public Estates Authority, where the court recognized the confidentiality of presidential conversations during closed-door Cabinet meetings, the deliberations of courts and private sessions of the legislature, that could not be compelled to be revealed to a coequal branch.

While Neri can be summoned again to the Senate, he may again refuse to answer queries and a new suit may again be elevated to the Supreme Court, this time with the "legal landscape" changed and even the tribunal's way of resolving it may be changed, Diokno said.

Amparo cases

"Our fear is that that every time there is an effort to secure information on human rights abuses or even corruption cases, the government is going to invoke national security or executive privilege," Diokno said.

"In our pending amparo cases, we have already seen the government invoke national security so we can expect in the future they will use [the Neri and Chavez rulings] as a shield so that they will not have to reveal information that they think is going to damage their image. And as far as human rights cases are concerned, we will not be able to investigate, prosecute and punish the offenders," he said.

Human Rights Watch

Representatives of Human Rights Watch (HRW) attended the press conference. They urged the United Nations to review the human rights situation in the Philippines.

en more value'



...of low-rise buildings, is increasingly dotted with towering residential blocks and ...vertising condos for sale in Fort Bonifacio says it all. Unlike in America, there's a real ...verseas Filipinos.

...there could be some questions as to the propriety of the proceedings."

Pangilinan objects

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan objected to the decision of Senate Blue Ribbon committee chair Sen. Alan Cayetano to open to hold further hearings on the NBN-ZTE deal while the chamber prepared its appeal.

"The Senate must assert its position as a coequal branch by proceeding with the hearings. It should not shirk from its responsibilities by suspending these hearings as if to run to sanctuary and weep because of the adverse decision," he said.

Pangilinan said the court's decision undermined the constitutional principle of coequality among the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

"Hence, to assert our status as a coequal branch and to get to the truth behind the anomalous deal, the Senate must proceed with the hearings by having Neri testify on other questions," he said.

Childish

Also yesterday, Fr. Ranhilio Aquino, dean of the San Beda College graduate school of law, said the senators were being "childish" for saying that the court decision would lead to a constitutional crisis.

"I think if our democracy is to survive and flourish, one important thing is the strengthening of our Constitution. Respect the institutions," he said. "The men and women who are in our institutions must behave honorably."

Erap hits SC justice who penned ruling

By Jocelyn R. Uy

HE'S ALSO DISGUSTED BY THE Supreme Court ruling that upheld the executive privilege invoked by former Socioeconomic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri but former President Joseph Estrada has a different take on the issue.

In dismissing the high court decision, Estrada took a swipe at Associate Justice Teresita de Castro, who penned the ruling, saying that it was obvious that the decision was based not on the merits of the case "but again along political lines."

De Castro, then the presiding Sandiganbayan justice, was one of the three magistrates who convicted Estrada of plunder on Sept. 12, 2007.

But Estrada, 70, evaded a 40-year jail term after President Macapagal-Arroyo pardoned him barely two months after his conviction.

"It is obvious that the majority of the high court justices ruled not on the merits of the case but again along political lines, bowing closely to Malacañang's line," he said in a statement yesterday.

Imprimatur

Saluting the members of the minority who did not agree with the decision, Estrada said the ruling only gave the Arroyo administration "imprimatur" to cover up its crimes against the Filipino people.

It also "paved the way" for government officials in the executive department to conceal more corruption, said Estrada, who has joined the campaign in the search for the truth in controversies hounding Ms Arroyo.

"But I am not surprised," Estrada said. "The ponente for that ruling was Associate Justice De Castro ... whose court convicted me, dismissing all the evidence we presented during my trial that was not disproved by the prosecution."

Grave peril

Estrada also feared that the check and balance in government institutions had been "wiped out" by the ruling, putting democracy in the country in "grave peril."

He said that during his term, he never had any of his Cabinet members, including his wife, former Sen. Loi Ejercito Estrada, invoke executive privilege.

"While I believe that executive privilege is a necessary constitutional tool for the President and Cabinet members to make use of in certain instances where sensitive national security and diplomatic matters may be involved, this privilege, however, must not and cannot be used to cover up a crime. This is elementary," Estrada said.



...Rights Watch deputy director for ...view of the human rights situation in ...ines on Thursday. She warns that ...ly continue with government failing ...ffice linked to the crimes.



DISMAYED: Majority of justices based ruling on "compelling need"

...amparo cases, says lawyer

The New York-based group said that while any reduction in human rights violations, as reported by the Philippine government, was welcome, certain "institutional changes" that would address the long-term problem of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances had yet to be adopted.

"A pause in political killings will mean little in the long run unless those responsible are prosecuted," HRW's deputy Asia director Elaine Pearson said.

No military conviction

Of the hundreds of political killings since 2001, Pearson said not a single military official had been convicted.

She said the Philippine government had failed to prosecute successfully members of the security forces for serious abuses. Since 2001, only two cases of killings of activists resulted in convictions of four defendants, none of whom were military personnel.

Pearson added that since enforced disappearances were a continuing offense, the government remained responsible for those "disappeared" until their fate or whereabouts becomes known.

Periodic review

The Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council will hold its first universal periodic review of the Philippine human rights record on April 11.

"This is something we take seriously," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said. "I am sure the government will make the appropriate explanation to the international community."

Ms Arroyo told foreign diplomats in January that seven activists and journalists were killed last year, compared to 41 in 2006.

The left-wing human rights group Karapatan also reported considerably fewer activists were killed or abducted last year, but gave higher figures of 68 activists slain and 26 missing, down from 185 dead and 93 missing in 2006.

Karapatan head Marie Hilao Enriquez said in a December report that the drop can be attributed to pressure from the diplomatic community and human rights groups.

887 activists slain

The report said 887 left-wing activists and their supporters have been killed and another 185 have disappeared since Ms Arroyo took office in 2001. (The Inquirer's count is 508.)

"The government said it had strengthened witness protection laws, but says its links to force people to testify if they fear retaliation. Without witnesses, no prosecution can move forward, it said. *With AP report*

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Not absolute

EDITORIAL



Fighting corruption the GMA way

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

A democracy of kept secrets

Passion for Reason

Raul C. Pangalangan

Smoke and mirror tricks

ANALYSIS



Amando Doronila

[illegible]

Don't curse the darkness

AT LARGE



Rina Jimenez-David

[illegible]

When law is politics

COMMENTARY

Florin T. Hilbay

[illegible]

1902

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

[illegible]

Waterboarding

[illegible]

Bishops' apologia for GMA

LETTERS

Chosen by people to succeed GMA

Electoral reforms to fight graft

Complainant not on list of PVAO pensioners

Quezon, not just Marcos, won reelection

Request for a reprint of inspiring article on Milwida Guevara

The bishops' 'naïve' hopes

COMMENTARY

Francisco J. Claver, S.J.



Pinoy killed in Dubai blast

By Nikko Dizon

A FILIPINO WORKER died on Wednesday from injuries sustained in a factory explosion in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said yesterday.

Romeo Olaya died at the Rashid Hospital, DFA spokesperson Claro Cristobal said in a text message, quoting a report by Philippine Consul General in Dubai Benito Valeriano.

Olaya was hit by debris following an explosion at 6 a.m. at the Seville Products Factory where he was employed.

Olaya was walking from his living quarters to the factory when the explosion occurred.

He was rushed to the hospital where he was declared dead upon arrival.

Cristobal said Olaya's employer has already informed his family of his death and Valeriano is coordinating with Seville for the repatriation of Olaya's remains to the Philippines.

Dubai authorities are still investigating what caused the blast, Cristobal said.

Across the NATION

Gov seeks delay in graft indictment

By Jocelyn R. Uy

PALAWAN GOV. Joel Reyes has asked the Sandiganbayan to defer his arraignment today on a graft charge filed against him for allegedly violating the small-scale mining law.





HONEST WORK

Misuari faces ouster as MNLF chief

FBI agents in Sulu to train RP troopers

Court affirms order to arrest Lanao mayor

By Julie M. Aurelio

A MAKATI CITY COURT HAS UPHELD ITS earlier decision to issue a warrant of arrest against a Lanao del Sur mayor accused of killing a Philippine Army captain in a jealous rage in Cagayan de Oro in 2000.

Judge Mary Ann Corpus-Mañalac of the Regional Trial Court Branch 141 denied with finality the appeal of Bayang, Lanao del Sur Mayor Amirodin Mangoran and a Unknown Angal in a three-page order.

The denied motion is expected to pave the way for the murder trial against the two suspects once they are arrested and brought to court nine years after their alleged crime.

Mangoran and Angal are facing charges for the December 2000 double murder of Capt. Sedric Tamano and his aide Sgt. Nabed Bara after the Supreme Court ordered the transfer of the case to Makati City.

In a three-page order, Mañalac pointed out that the positive identification by witnesses Fred Villa and Bashir Sabiqe "warranted the finding of probable cause to proceed against the accused."

Mangoran earlier filed a motion to lift the arrest warrant against him, questioning the court's finding of probable cause against him as he claimed that the witnesses were not credible enough.

But Mañalac said the court recognizes the issue of credibility of the witnesses but this can only be determined during trial.

"The said issue is more appropriately determined during a full-blown trial and not at this stage when the issue pertains merely on the probability of the crime allegedly committed by the accused," she explained in her order.

Mangoran's camp previously filed an appeal before the Office of the President, seeking a reversal of a Department of Justice resolution that found probable cause to indict them for double murder.

Mañalac, however, ruled in favor of the prosecution, which argued that Sabiqe's recantation of his testimony is dubious and that Villa, though a professional witness, has no reason to lie.

The judge also stressed that an administrative appeal to the Office of the President of a DOJ ruling "does not deprive court of jurisdiction over the case."

Mañalac added that the judiciary and the executive are distinct branches of government with powers and functions independent of each other.

In December 2000, Tamano and Bara were ambushed in Cagayan de Oro, allegedly for having an affair with Mangoran's wife, an issue which the Tamano family denied.

Mangoran, a remote colonel Hilmgidam Dagalangit and Angal were later tagged and charged with their alleged involvement in the ambush.

The Makati City court has junked the case against Dagalangit, finding insufficient basis to indict him on murder charges.



NEWSBRIEFS

■ DAVAO CITY

Mining firms get OK in Sultan Kudarat

AT LEAST two large-scale mining companies have started exploration activities in Sultan Kudarat province, Gov. Suharto Mangudadatu announced.

Mangudadatu said the two mining companies, which he did not name, were among 26 companies that earlier sought license to explore gold and other minerals in the province.

Mangudadatu said the areas being explored are in the towns of Columbio, Bagumbayan, Kalamansig, Lebak and Palimbang.

Judy Quiros, Inquirer Mindanao

■ CEBU CITY

Diving from waterfalls banned in Badian town

LOCAL and police authorities in Badian have implemented measures to avoid the recurrence of an accident in Badian town, over 100 km south of here, on Good Friday that resulted in the death of a Korean national.

Roo Ho-jun, 26-year-old Korean student, dived into the Kawasan Falls in Badian, dismaying the landlocked falls' company, Korean students Lim Seng Soon, 24, Jeon Chung Eun, 22, and Chon Jeong A, 20 and Hwanang Bean into the waters.

Kawasan Falls is a popular destination in southern Cebu for locals and foreigners, especially during summer.

Lim died a few minutes after he was brought to the Badian Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Hospital in Alegria town.

Jhunnex Napallacan, Inquirer Visayas

■ BATANGAS CITY

GMA opens 19-km Batangas toll road

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo led on Wednesday the soft opening of the 19.74-kilometer Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (Star) which, she said, would help reduce travel time from Lipa City to Batangas City from 45 to 15 minutes.

The P2.4-billion road project, known as Star Tollway Project Stage II, was done through the national government's build-operate-transfer scheme.

The highway is being operated by the Star Tollway Corp. (STC), whose contract will expire in 2038.

Marian Alexander Lualhati, Inquirer Southern Luzon

■ BACOLOD CITY

2 cops in trouble in Negros Occidental

A POLICEMAN in Negros Occidental is facing dismissal from service for drug and while another has been charged with illegal possession of firearm.

Senior Supt. Frumencio Franco, provincial police director, Wednesday, said he would recommend the dismissal from the police service of PO3 Bernabé Jaime after he was arrested for trading in shabu and doing surveillance his prosecution at the airport in Silay City, on March 10.

PO2 Arben Bagoto, a member of the Sta. Catalina Police in Negros Oriental, faces charges of illegal possession of firearm at the San Carlos City prosecutor's office.

San Carlos City police chief Supt. Manalo Benz said Bagoto, who has been on absence without leave (Awol), was arrested on Tuesday with a .357 Magnum revolver in Barangay Rizal, Plaza San Carlos City.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

Gunmen release kidnapped teacher

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Unidentified armed men released the teacher they abducted in January after killing a Catholic priest in Tawi-Tawi, authorities said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Winnie Tusp, Tawi-Tawi police chief, told the Inquirer that Orson Tusp "recently walked toward the house of his cousin Renanda. Then after he was released by his captors at the Bongao Poblacion public market."

"He is still in a state of shock and refuses to talk to anyone," Tusp said.

The teacher, a distant relative of the police chief, was snatched by a group of armed men after they shot and killed Oblate priest Rey Roda in Barangay Tabawan, South Ubian town on Jan. 15.

Tusp said they could not determine the exact date the teacher was released but it might have taken place between March 15 to 17.

He said the police only knew about the release on March 17 when the teacher's older sister called him up.

"I was attending a conference in Zamboanga City when she called up," Tusp said.

Tusp said on March 23, he again received a call from the teacher's older sister.

"And I was informed they paid 'board and lodging' amounting to P200,000," he said.

Tusp said police will invite the teacher for questioning so he could shed light on the identity of the abductors.

He said the information from the victim could also help authorities determine the motive behind the murder of Roda, who belonged to the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI).

Julie Alipala, Inquirer Mindanao



Irri: RP rice harvests double that of Thailand



Hoarding

High population growth

Thin global supply

China's state secret

Burma as swing producer

Biofuel industry

Nene targets father-in-law of agri chief Arthur Yap

NFA traders charged

Revalidate passbooks

Diverting supply

Militant farmers





Repacked NFA rice

Review Price Act

GMA blames bottlenecks

'Quash like rats'

Fr. Bernas prays for 'gentlewoman' in yellow

From page A1

ways of health."

"It was very beautiful, very solemn," Syjuangco said of the Mass, which members of the media were barred from attending.

Kris Aquino and Sen. Benigno Aquino III, the former President's youngest child and only son, respectively, announced on Monday that their mother was suffering from colon cancer.

They asked for prayers for her recovery as well as for privacy to help her recover.

Among those present at the Mass were former members of the Aquino and Arroyo administrations, including Rafael Alunan, Teresita Quintos Deles, Florencio Abad and Cesar Purisima; former Central Bank Governor Jose Cuisia; businessman Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala; former Aquino spokesperson Deedee Siytangco; Bishop Ramento of the IFI; Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros; Cina de Venecia; Vice Queen Amenoita; academician Patricia Licuanan; Aquino's daughter Pinky and grandchildren Kiko and Jiggy, and nephew Paul Lopez.

Gentlewoman in yellow

In his homily Bernas said "the gentlewoman in yellow" had served as "the country's moral force" since her husband, former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" Aquino Jr., was assassinated in 1983.

"His message to Tita Cory was 'Be not afraid,' after the gospel about the resurrected Jesus meeting Mary Magdalene and telling her not to be afraid," Syjuangco said.

Syjuangco also said Aquino's grandchild Kiko was moved by the collective prayer for his grandmother's recovery and the outpouring of support for his family.

"He noted that even people and personalities on the other side of the political fence are praying for his grandma, and that is what is touching him," Syjuangco said.

A Mass for Aquino is scheduled today at the Edsa Shrine in Mandaluyong City and another on the Ateneo de Manila University campus in Quezon City on Monday evening.

Students' visit

Earlier yesterday, students calling themselves Youth Revolt came to Aquino's residence on Times Street in Quezon City to bring gifts and to let her know that they would "carry on the fight" for her.



GET WELL WISHES Student leaders from Youth Revolt deliver fruit, balloons, a cake and messages to the residence of former President Cory Aquino on Times Street, Quezon City. Ms Aquino is undergoing treatment for colon cancer.

They promised to be steadfast in their demand for President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down amid expectations that the "Gloria Resign" movement would weaken as a result of Aquino's being sidelined by her ailment.

The students came bearing a basket of fruit, balloons and a cake with a message in English and Filipino: "We pray for your recovery. The fight continues. Gloria Resign Now!"

Inspiration

Aquino sent a message of gratitude to her young visitors, relayed through the house caretaker via mobile phone.

Youth Revolt national spokesperson Mark Louie Aquino (not a relative) told the Inquirer that their visit to the former President's residence was intended to deliver not only gifts but also the message that they would continue the crusade for the truth and the Ms Arroyo's resignation.

"We came here to pray for her speedy recovery. She was with us when we called for Gloria to resign. She inspired us to find the truth," Mark Louie Aquino said.

The Youth Revolt spokesperson also said the absence of the former President from the anti-Arroyo protest actions would certainly be a loss to the youth sector.

But he said that contrary to expectations of a waning movement given Aquino's ill health, this would only give them stronger resolve to pick up where their inspiration has left.

"We are the bearers of the future. In her honor. Now we need to carry on the fight that Ms Aquino has started," he said.

Aquino as achiever

In a tribute to women achievers sponsored by the Soroptimists of Manila at City Hall, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, a close friend of the Aquino family, dedicated one minute of prayer for the former President's swift recovery.

Aquino, who came to power in 1986 after the Edsa I People Power revolt toppled the Marcos dictatorship, was one of the women honored by the Soroptimists the other day.

The others cited were Ana Maria Barcelle and Dr. Cristina Lim Yuson for education; Josefina Chua and Rae Norbeltes Lacman for health and sanitation; Zenaida de Castro and Remedios P. Rodis for humanitarian service; Shirley Bondoc and Rubilyn Leganio for livelihood; and Chief Insp. Teresita Lim and Insp. Medina Obego for peace and order.

An exhibit on trailblazing women, including Inquirer editor in chief Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc as the country's first woman editor of a daily newspaper, was also put up at Villegas Hall.

Quoting Diane Mariechild on women, Lim said: "A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture and transform. This is why today we are going to honor and acknowledge these outstanding women." *With reports from Beverly T. Natividad and Alcuin M. Lopez*

Big belly in middle ...

From page A1

percent of adults in this country have abdominal obesity. This is a disturbing finding," said study author Rachel Whitmer of the Kaiser Permanente Division of Research in Oakland, California.

It is not just about your weight. While previous research has found evidence that obesity in middle age raises the chances of developing dementia later, the new work found a separate risk from storing a lot of fat in the abdomen.

Even people who were not overweight were susceptible.

That abdominal fat, sometimes described as making people apple-shaped rather than pear-shaped, has already been linked to higher risk of developing diabetes, stroke and heart disease.

Location of weight

"Now we can add dementia to that," Whitmer said. "It's not just weight, it's where you carry your weight that is a very important risk factor."

"If you have two people who are both 30 pounds overweight, one carries it around the middle and one carries it around the hips, that person who carries it around the middle needs to know they are at greater risk," Whitmer said in a telephone interview.

She and others reported the findings in Wednesday's online issue of the journal Neurology.

Measuring belly size

The study involved 6,583 men and women aged 40 to 45 when they had checkups between 1964 and 1973.

As part of the exam, the bellies of the subjects were measured by using a caliper to find the distance between their backs and the surface of their upper abdomen. For the study, a distance of about 10 inches or more was considered high.

The researchers checked medical records to see who had developed Alzheimer's or another form of dementia by an average of 36 years later. At that point the participants were ages 73 to 87. There were 1,049 cases.

Results of study

Analysis found that compared to people in the study with normal body weight and a low belly measurement:

- Participants with normal body weight and high belly measurements were 89 percent more likely to have dementia.
- Overweight people were 82 percent more likely if they had a low belly measurement, but more than twice as likely if they had a high belly measurement.
- Obese people were 81 percent more likely if they had a low belly measurement, but more than three times as likely if they had a high measurement.

Get rid of it

Whitmer said there was no precise way to translate belly measurements into waist circumference.

But most people have a sense of whether they have a big belly, she said. And if they do, the new study suggests they should get rid of it.

"Where one carries the weight—especially in middle—appears to be an important predictor for dementia risk," Whitmer said.

It is not clear why abdominal fat would promote dementia, but it may pump out substances that harm the brain, she said.

High insulin levels

Dr. Jose Luchsinger of the Columbia University Medical Center in New York, who studies the connection between obesity and Alzheimer's disease but did not participate in the new work, cautioned that such a study could not prove abdominal fat promoted dementia.

But the study results are "highly plausible" and "I'm not surprised at all," he said. High insulin levels might help explain them, he said.

Dr. Samuel Gandy, who chairs the medical and scientific advisory council of the Alzheimer's Association, said the results fit in with previous work that indicated a person's characteristics in middle age could affect the risk of dementia in later life.

And it is another example of how traits associated with the risk of developing heart disease are also linked to later dementia, he said. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

*"Success is a state of mind.
One not only has to be in that state.
One has to live there."*

One Central

THE PHILIPPINES' GRAND ADDRESS OF SUCCESS



SUCCESS HAS A NEW FACE. AND A NEW NAME.

An extraordinary world opens its doors only to the very best. One Central. Your own place in the privileged location for Makati's A-list: the central business district. Here, the city's best destinations are at your command. Be neighbors with the cream of the corporate world on the premier side of the CBD. Enjoy convenient access to everything else at glitzy Greenbelt. And with your proximity to a master-planned network of roads and pedestrian streets, reach the rest of the metro's hot spots with ease. At home, experience all the bells and whistles of opulent CBD living. The residential suites are pre-furnished with modern comforts. And you can choose from rejuvenating cityscape, pool or cityscape views. Leisure amenities, a retail row and a man-made rainforest offer hours of recreation right at your doorstep. And an attentive concierge tends to your needs, making each day that much more indulgent. Discover life on the high end in the country's new landmark of success, One Central.



Come to our open house activity on MARCH 29 (Sat.), 9 AM to 10 PM, at G/F Greenbelt Parkplace, 112 C. Palanca St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

All residences FULLY FURNISHED.
With the BEST in PLAY AMENITIES.
Own a lifestyle of success in the most exclusive of locations.
For inquiries about our special payment plans, call us now at
856-4220, 856-4221 or Cell# 0915-3137409.

Megaworld Marketing Office and Showroom, G/F Greenbelt Parkplace, 112 C.P. St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
E-mail: marketing2@megaworldcorp.com

A Premier Residential Development of

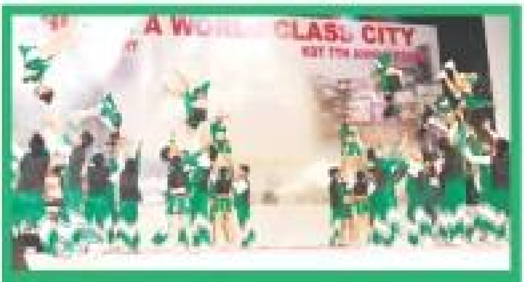
MEGAWORLD

A plus METRO
Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Policeman is suspect in bus robberies

May also be charged with violation of anti-fencing law

A 45-YEAR-OLD POLICEMAN ASSIGNED TO CAMP CRAME AND a civilian were arrested Wednesday for a series of late-night bus robberies along Epifanio delos Santos Avenue in Pasay City.



CHEERS TO THE CHAMP

Passenger jeep rams into truck in Antipolo; 12 persons injured

2 gun-toting soldiers nabbed in QC

Las Piñas celebrates 101st year

MetroBriefs

2 mutilated heads, dead baby found in QC

FEAR gripped two villages in Quezon City on Thursday after the discovery of two severed heads and the body of a 7-month-old baby who appeared to have been murdered. Capt. Franklin Moises Mabanag, chief of Quezon City Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit said the two severed heads were found by scavengers floating along a creek in Dilo West Riverside, Barangay San Antonio at around 8:30 a.m. Quoting witnesses, Mabanag said the heads were already bloated and in the early stages of decomposition. He said they believed the mutilated heads belonged to two members of a drug syndicate who may have been killed by their gangmates. "Members of illegal drugs syndicate are known to kill their members in such ghastly ways," he told the Inquirer. Mabanag said they received a woman who went to their office on Wednesday night to file a report with the police about her husband and their friend who went missing after they were allegedly taken by unidentified men from Quiapo in Manila a week ago. At about the same time, the body of a baby boy was discovered by residents at a tricycle terminal in Fr. Francisco Street at the corner of Mendez Road in Barangay Balingasa. Driver Hermenando Rabalaj Jr. said he found a plastic bag inside a tricycle as he was parking his tricycle at the terminal. Curious about its contents, he opened the plastic bag and was shocked to see the body of a dead baby boy inside. He said the baby, which was about seven months old, had a long open wound on his chest. Mabanag said he already ordered his men to conduct a deeper investigation into the two incidents. *Marlon Ramos*

Robbers fail to get away with bank money

A BANK cashier survived a robbery try and a shooting incident on Wednesday afternoon in Pasig City. Chief Supt. Nicasio Dela Cruz, director of the Eastern Police District, said Century Savings Bank cashier Marivel Magat, 33, sustained gun shot wounds after unidentified robbers riding on a motorcycle blocked her vehicle driven by Roel Padilla along Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City on Wednesday afternoon. Magat was rushed to the hospital where she underwent treatment. The robbers were armed with .38 caliber guns and fired at Magat when she refused to open her car door. According to Dela Cruz, the robbers failed to get the bank's cash from Magat. While police knew that Magat had just came from a Metrobank branch, police have yet to determine the amount of cash she had with her at the time of the incident. Dela Cruz said the suspects did not do further damage as there were police in the area. The EPD chief added that the police immediately ordered a manhunt for the suspects who escaped shortly after the incident. *Kristine L. Alave*

Sena art workshops in April

ART workshops for children aged six and above and adults will be offered by artist Fernando B. Sena in a number of venues in Quezon City beginning next month. Prospective students can choose to enroll in classes (Saturdays) from 9-11:30 a.m. in the following venues: Philippine Heart Center on East Avenue (Sundays), Miriam College, Katipunan Avenue (Tuesdays), UP Vargas Museum, Diliman (Wednesdays), Philippine Medical Women's Association, Malakas Street corner V. Luna Road (Saturdays) and Triumph Building, Quezon Avenue (Mondays and Thursdays). For details, call Mr. Sena at 373-2788 or (0918) 951-9880.

Did you know

BEFORE it was destroyed during World War II, Fort Santiago in Intramuros, Manila was a two-story structure that housed the artillery companies of the Spanish Army and the cell where national hero Jose Rizal was jailed.

In 1953, the fort was rebuilt as a shrine in honor of Rizal. It now contains his writings, personal artifacts and a life-size wax statue.

Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research

Ducat remains a hero in Tondo

By Tina G. Santos

ARMANDO DUCAT JR., WHO TOOK 26 children and three teachers hostage a year ago, remains a hero to his "victims" and many residents of an urban poor community in Tondo, Manila.

Residents of Parola Compound, particularly the "victims" and their parents, plan to hold a candle-lighting ceremony at the Rosalinda Ducat Learning Center today to mark the first anniversary of the incident.

During the ceremony, which coincides with the promulgation of Ducat's 283 words at the Manuel Roxas Center, the residents plan to reiterate their appeal for his release from jail (See related story on this page).

Genesis Araojo, whose 7-year-old daughter Angeline was among the hostages, said they still looked up to Ducat who had been helping and fighting for the poor.

On March 28, 2007, Ducat, along with Caesar Carbonell, held the children and their teachers hostage for nearly 10 hours on a bus parked in front of the Southern Rizal near the Manila City Hall.

Ducat, who was armed with two firearms and two grenades, denounced corruption and demanded better lives for the children. He later surrendered to authorities and released the children.

Many residents wore black shirts with the message "Stop Corruption, Free Education" in front and "Palayain si Jun Ducat at Caesar Carbonell" at the back.

Carbonell and Ducat are now detained at the Manila City Jail for illegal detention and illegal possession of firearms.

Pointing out that Ducat's act was not in vain, Rosalie Rose and Mario Seneries, two of three teachers held hostage, said the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority provided free livelihood training to residents of the community.

A private company school pledged education grants while the government was reportedly considering giving the residents titles to the land they occupied.

Rose said despite Ducat's absence, his school continued to operate. "We even had more graduates this year compared to last year's 145," he said.

Many residents spoke highly of Ducat's philanthropic pursuits for the poor and desire to rescue them from poverty.

"With Ducat's many projects in the community of their area, apart from the daycare center, Glenda Tomanis said even if the hostage-taking was a publicity stunt, it was fine with them."

She said Ducat provided free education and school supplies to their children.

Tomanis cited Ducat's accomplishments in Barangay 275, including bagging sportsfest, roofing and gift-giving programs, among others.

"He (Ducat) doesn't deserve to suffer in jail. He should be freed because he was only fighting for the poor," Lydia Seneresis told the Inquirer.

'No one listened'

By Allison W. Lopez

A YEAR IN THE CRAMPED MANILA City Jail has not tempered the views of the philanthropic engineer who, exactly a year ago, was at the center of a storm for hostaging 26 children from his own day care center in Tondo to air his feelings on politics and the state of education in the country.

Wearing a personalized "Stop corruption" yellow sleeveless shirt, Ducat, now 57 and sporting a beard, again told a reporter, intending that the government, now embroiled in controversies, should have heeded his calls for change.

"What hurts is that I was heard by the whole world but I was not heard by Malacañang. Nobody was listening," he said, referring to the hostage-taking incident as "makinang pansamantalang" (dramatic declaration).

The engineer admitted that he struggled to keep his hopes up for his country and his family which suffered emotionally and financially when he was put behind bars.

His three Ecclesiastes that dawn two months after the incident, he said. Then, his heart began to trouble him.

"It seems there is no more hope, but I'm trying to be strong. Sometimes I ask myself why I got into this," he revealed.

But even if he faces deep over corruption issues plaguing the country, Ducat does not believe ousting President Macapagal-Arroyo or asking for her resignation was the solution.

"Bangungot yan (That's a nightmare) because the people asking for it are the same ones who made Edsa 1 and 2 happen. This administration may be one of the problems but replacing Ms Arroyo won't necessarily bring about change," he said.

His message to his countrymen, if they cared to listen? "Unite under one principle, go towards the same direction."



DUCAT in jail. Still in fighting form.



PARENTS with children who were taken hostage by Ducat. Watching him praise for their benefactor.

Tutors asked about empty ballot boxes

By Kristine L. Alave

THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (Comelec) has ordered 200 teachers in Pasig City to explain why 63 ballot boxes from the second district were empty.

Teachers of the Pinagbuhatan High School told the Inquirer they were ordered by the Comelec Second Division to submit an affidavit explaining why the ballot boxes used in the May 2007 elections did not contain election returns and other paraphernalia.

The ballot boxes came from precincts included in the recount for the hotly contested mayoralty race between Robert "Dodot" Jaworski and Mayor Robert Eusebio.

Jaworski, a former congressman, got 147,000 votes and claimed he was cheated. He asked for a recount of results from 1,267 precincts in the second district.

Eusebio, who won by 9,000 votes, denied allegations of vote-buying and tampering. He petitioned the court to recount results from 250 precincts in the first district.

Speaking on behalf of the teachers, Cesar Basilio said the demand was a surprise to them as "everything we did went in accordance with the rules and was witnessed by everyone."

Basilio said the boxes were in good condition when they handed them over to the city treasurer after the May elections. The boxes were placed in the warehouse on the ground floor of the Pasig City hall.

Basilio said the teachers felt they were being blamed for the alleged tampering. He said the Comelec should ask the city treasurer and other city officials to explain as they were in charge of the boxes' security.

Gudito Brito, Jocelyn Santos and Rebiler Maliagao, three of the teachers who submitted a joint affidavit, said all the election documents were inspected and signed by the Board of Election Inspectors and watchers.



McCain breaks with Bush, vows no retreat from Iraq

Philam Plans continues to lead the way in Pre-Need

The WORLD

Monks say China lying about unrest

BEIJING—TIBETAN MONKS DISRUPTED AN OFFICIAL news briefing at a temple in Lhasa on Thursday, shouting that Chinese authorities were lying about unrest in the Himalayan region, foreign reporters said.

WorldBriefs

Sweden eyes easing foreign worker rules

Reuters

Sadr followers resist crackdown in Basra

Reuters

Virus kills Chile's salmon; groups indict fish pens

AFP

Indonesia court acquits Suharto in graft case

AFP

After karaoke, Japan offers talk-along 'anime' machine

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres   Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa



Hapee survives Burger in 2 OTs

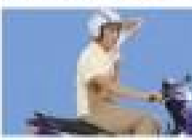


SANDWICHED Coffee's ... blocks an attempt by ... as ... provides help defense.

Cruz putback gives Protectors thrilling 5th win



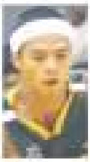






Kerby-Arwind fight mars PBA tune-up encounter


RAYMUNDO


SANTOS

Repeat Bora stints for five

Perpetual also advances to finals



Valero gets US license; Pacman bout now possible



COMMENTARY

Ogilvy's victory; Jawo's apology?

Big Pasay derby kicks off today

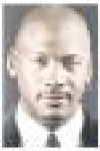
SPORTSWATCH

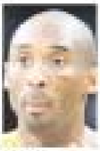
60 fights in Pasig 4-cocker up



KG lifts Celts past Suns

Michael Jordan jersey still NBA's best seller


JORDAN


BRYANT


IVERSON



Floyd faces 'Big Show'

Tiger knows when to quit

SPORTS

Big escape by Alcantara

Last Filipino standing rallies, ousts tough Briton

By Marc Anthony Reyes



COURAGEOUS EFFORT: Francis Casey Alcantara returns a backhand to Briton Mathew James in the third set.

RP won't join Olympic boycott move

By Marc Anthony Reyes

Go: From hawk to dove at POC



Korean, Superal power Orchard past AGE bets in Junior Interclub

RMSC bars going, going . . .

Champs Cup stint still unsure



Baseball Season 3 kicks off Sunday

BUSINESS

ADB: Power, infra costs cripple RP

Bank cites Manila's 'unfinished' transport agenda

THE ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK SEES THE "expensive" and "unreliable" electric supply as well as "inefficient" transport network in the Philippines as the two most critical infrastructure constraints to the country's growth.

The ADB cited studies, which included inputs from the World Bank, the Philippine government's unfinished reform agenda for the power and transport sectors.

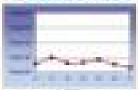
A comparative study of 10 Asian cities showed that power tariffs for businesses in Manila were 20 to 80 percent higher than that in neighboring countries, the bank said.

"In addition, the reliability of electricity supply has been

ADB/B2

IN THIS ISSUE

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



Shares close 0.3% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY CLOSED 0.3 percent higher as investors picked up bargains among the blue-chips, but sentiment was cautious after falls on Wall Street, dealers said.

They said the disappointing US durable goods and home sales figures impacted on New York, resulting in thinner volumes on the domestic market.

SHARES/B5

BSP tolerates losses to keep inflation at bay

SPECIAL REPORT

THE LARGE LOSSES INCURRED BY THE Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) last year happened in the course of its performance of its main goal to keep the prices of local goods and services from rising too fast.

BSP/B4

Gov't debt servicing expenses down by 19% in Jan.

Interest on loans accounted for bulk of amount paid

Gender representation

Corporate Securities Info

Raul J. Palabrica

Public companies

Enforcement

Standards



ADB: Power, infra costs ...

WB urges RP to keep eye on balancing budget

Palawan expands to jatropha

By Abigail L. Ho

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PALAWAN—The provincial government of Palawan has committed to allocate at least 20,000 hectares of land for use in the cultivation of jatropha, a plant that can be used as feedstock for biofuel production.

In a memorandum of understanding signed yesterday with PNOC Alternative Fuels Corp., the Palawan government said it had an initial 10,000 hectares of idle land that could be planted with jatropha.

Under the MOU, the Palawan provincial government guaranteed long-term support to PNOC-AFC's biofuels program.

Palawan would also be responsible for identifying the initial 10,000-hectare area where jatropha nurseries would be put up.

PNOC-AFC, on the other hand, would provide the technology and technical training needed to develop the jatropha nurseries here.

Palawan Gov. Joel Reyes said that easily 20,000 hectares could be committed to jatropha production, as the province had more than 200,000 hectares of idle land.

He explained that apart from jatropha, Palawan's idle land would also be used to cultivate palm and rubber trees.

"We'll create a roadmap segregating the different areas. More arable lands will be used for traditional crops such as rice and corn. Some will be used for jatropha. Other areas would be used for palm and rubber trees," he said in an interview here.

By Michelle V. Remo

THE WORLD BANK has cautioned the government against postponing plans to balance its budget this year to make way for increased spending.

Bert Hofman, World Bank's country director for the Philippines, said government efforts to close the budget gap and move toward balancing the budget contributed to the record 7.3 percent growth in gross domestic product last year, the fastest in 31 years.

Thus, to veer away from the goal of balancing the budget this year might raise doubts on the sustainability of government's fiscal reforms, he said.

The government has committed to international financial institutions that it would balance its budget this year after a decade of being in the red.

The government's ability to raise enough revenues to match expenses is expected to further improve the country's credit ratings, making it cheaper to borrow funds from abroad.

"Government should be careful in moving to temporarily halt the fiscal consolidation target. What is ideal is for the government's revenue performance to do very well, with the proposed legislative measures to improve collection already in place," Hofman said on the sidelines of the Philippine Development Forum (PDF) held in Clark Field, Pampanga.

PDF is an annual event where government officials and representatives from foreign lenders discuss possible programs and projects that the latter may finance to help boost the country's economy.

Proposals to defer the plan of balancing the budget surfaced amid the global slowdown that could impact on the domestic economy.

To cushion a pending US recession, some analysts said that the government needed to spend more on infrastructure and social services and be less fixated on balancing the budget.

But for the World Bank, Hofman said that what's advisable was for the government to shore up revenue collection to make sure it meets rising expenses.

"The world economy is not doing that great [so] the government should prepare for a possible storm. [Government] has to do something on the revenue side to allow for potential higher expenditure when they are needed," Hofman said.

Human face of Sumilao

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

LAST MARCH 23 AND 24, THE MAIN headlines of the Philippine Daily Inquirer were both on Sumilao. The reported draft agreement between the Sumilao farmers and San Miguel Corporation (SMC) would "apportion to the farmers 50 hectares from the original contested site, plus another 94 hectares from an adjacent property."

COMMENTARY

The Inquirer also reported on the planned issuance of a joint statement by both parties on March 25.

Since this statement has not yet been issued, I went to see the Sumilao farmers now camping at the Carmas office in Pasig.

They are composed of two groups: the Mapalad Multi-Purpose Cooperative (MAPALAD) composed of 75 farmer families from the first generation led by Tom Merida, and the San Vicente Land Farmers Association (SALFA) composed of the second generation led by Merida's nephew, Nonong Merida.

This was not the first time I saw the Sumilao farmers. Before SALFA was organized in 2004, MAPALAD staged a 28-day hunger strike in 1997 claiming their rights to the contested Sumilao land.

It was then already a member of PAKISAMA, which is one of the 42 federations and organizations that compose the Alyansa Agrikultura.

The Alyansa's consistent position, guided by the opinion of legal luminaries such as Joaquin Bernas, SJ, and Christian Monsod, has always been to support the Sumilao farmers in their claim on the Sumilao land.

However, the Alyansa also consistently suggested that the Sumilao farmers, half of whom are affiliated with the Alyansa, be open to an agreement where their rights would still be respected, but that SMC could continue their piggery agro-industrial project through a win-win agreement.

The Sumilao farmers agreed to this, which is why the negotiations have progressed so well.

Damaging information

When one hears about the Sumilao farmers' struggle, one cannot help but be impressed. And when one actually meets them, one cannot help but be inspired. Their human face adds tremendous strength to their valid cause.

They have been pictured in some media reports as opportunists who are being paid by unscrupulous parties wishing to take over SMC operations. Thus, the initial propaganda was that the Sumilao farmers were never open to allowing SMC to operate in the contested land. I know from my dealings with them that this was never true. The current negotiations prove this reality.

The other contention is that Sumilao farmers are greedy. It was claimed that many are not legitimate because they are not from the area, while the rest have already gotten land from an adjoining estate and want even more.

Sumilao farmer Peter reports that only last week, all the 144 Sumilao claimant families were once again screened by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) and confirmed as legitimate agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Furthermore, the land given them from the adjoining estate was only 60 hectares. This translates to an average of only 4/10 of a hectare per family, where DAR has stated that 3 hectares is the minimum that a family should ideally have.

If the Sumilao farmers get the additional 144 hectares they are now claiming, each family would increase its average holding to an average 1.27 hectares, not even half of the minimum 3 hectares stipulated by DAR. This is greedy? Far from it.

The Sumilao leaders are among the most generous ones we will ever encounter. We have read about their praiseworthy cause. But if one meets them in person, he or she will see firsthand their desire to help, at great sacrifice to themselves.

In 1996, Nonong studied to become a paralegal to help his fellow farmers. Because of his proven commitment to small farmers through the years, he was elected in 2004 as the chair of PAKISAMA, the largest national farmer organization today and a working member of Alyansa Agrikultura.

On October 9, 2007, Peter Ligtasan, a founder and the first chair of MAPALAD, brought his sister Linda and other Sumilao farmers from 137 families to stage a "lakad," an indigenous form of hunger strike.

On the 27th day, Linda demonstrated their plight by refusing to take even water. She later collapsed and was hospitalized. Nevertheless, she undertook the gruelling march 10 years later with the same Sumilao farmers, fighting for the same noble cause.

The lawyers supporting the Sumilao farmers' cause are equally admirable.

Marlon Manuel turned down a lucrative multinational firm offer to devote his time with SALIGAN, an NGO helping the Sumilao farmers. Arlene Bag-ao joined SALIGAN right after graduating from Ateneo de Manila Law School, flew to Sumilao temporarily to assist in 1996, and chose to stay there for the last 11 years to help them.

Tragically, two lawyers from SALIGAN died in a plane crash when they were on their way to Sumilao to assist the farmers.

Model to emulate

Much credit should also be given to SMC CEO Ramon Ang. Instead of dragging this case out, he has generously agreed to engage the farmers' representatives in a win-win arrangement. On two separate occasions where I was personally involved, I saw Ang's commitment to help other small farmers.

When Ang was asked if SMC was sealing a deal with the Sumilao farmers, he was quoted as saying, "Yes, it's Cardinal Rosales' wish." It is also the Sumilao farmers' right. And with the goodwill of Ang and the Sumilao covering both sides, Sumilao's human face will become visible in the forthcoming win-win agreement that can serve as a model for others in the future.

(The author is the chair of Agrisoulin, former secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary for Agriculture, and Trade and Industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatch-phil@yahoo.com or telefax (02) 8522112.)

FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2008 **BUSINESS** B5

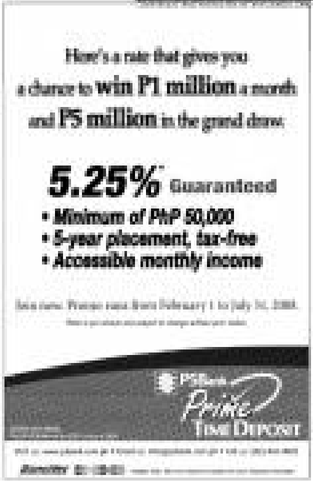
Slowdown need not worry Asia

By Doris C. Dumlao

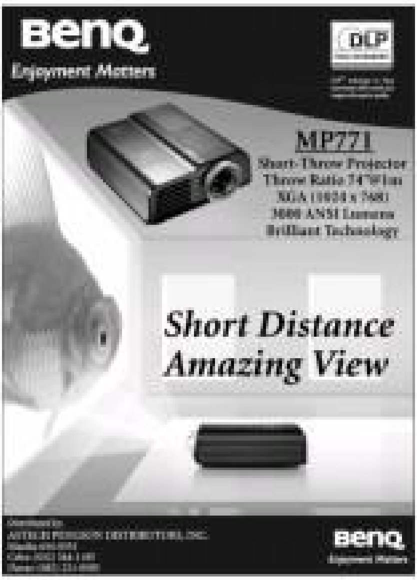
Moody's says downturn won't be of a scale that 'warrants panic'

Filipino workers in Taiwan recover ₱33.7M in claims

Shares ...







PRULINK PRU LIFE U.K.



Globe

AGENDA

ATN Holdings, Mariestad in manganese mine deal

Proponents upbeat on project's outlook



PORTION of the five-hectare pilot site in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija.

PSE to pay ₱305M in cash dividend

Stockholders of ABS-CBN to get 82.5¢/share

Nido inks deal for Galoc oil marketing

BSP tolerated losses to keep inflation at bay

People, Events & Products

McDonald's search for Champion Kids



JACK 'N JILL DONATES TO GMA KAPUSO FOUNDATION

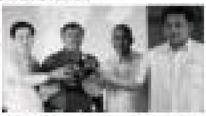
Bits & Clips

Isuzu's 'Mix & Max' promo for Global D-MAX

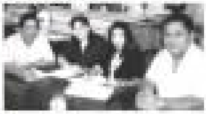
EQ congratulates winners of Jollibee Kids Party

Sun invasion in Batangas, Tarlac and Zamboanga

TUTUBAN MALL'S TMX LAUNCH



HIMEX, CDOPGH SIGN CONTRACT



Krispy Kreme takes on Makati City

Anything goes with Magnolia Fresh Chicken

Business writing workshop at St. Benilde

Sagip Buhay, UP-PGH Golf Classic

Summer discounts at Olympic Village

Hallmark's scrapbooking competition

Wilcon Builders' Wheels and Bills Promo

1st Healthy Food Congress

Young artist conducts summer art workshop

Digi_log holds exhibit

Akcupi to be launched on Sunday

Linde eyes ₱1.5B for RP plants

Fisheries sector expects record output

BUSINESS *Friday*

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

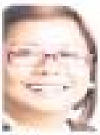
4A's head wants ad group 'in tune with times'

To take more proactive role in Ad Standards Council, new self-regulatory body to screen ads

By [illegible]
Contributor

LIKE A PERFECTLY BAKED biscuit, the former Proctor-like brand assistant emerged from the ranks and became general manager of a challenging world—Black Pencil, Leo Burnett's creative sibling and "bakery" of some of the country's crispiest ideas.

[illegible]



MILA MARQUEZ

[illegible] Marquez wants to bring "fresher perspective to the ever-changing dynamics of the industry." The challenge is "to continue to make 4As in tune with the times," stresses Marquez.

Her immediate goal is to work closely with the 4As allied organizations—the Philippine Association of National Advertisers (Pana), [illegible] (UPMG), Outdoor Advertising Association of the Philippines (OAAP), Advertising Suppliers Association of the Philippines (Asap), Marketing and Opinion Research Society of the Philippines (MORES), [illegible] Association of the Philippines (IBA?), [illegible] Advertising Association of the Philippines (Caap).

Marquez wants to strengthen 4As role by being more proactive in the Ad Standards Council—the new self-regulatory body [illegible]

The objective of ASC is to promote and protect the public interest in mass media and advertising through self-regulation. Beginning March 31, 2008, the ASC will screen all ad content prior to airing, publication or display and settle disputes related to advertising content.

The ASC will prescreen all broadcast, cinema, outdoor and out-of-home advertising materials.

Asked what program is closest to her heart, Marquez responds: [illegible]

Aside from Marquez, the other 4As elected officers are:

[illegible]



[illegible]

Asia Adfest update, Pinoys on creatives list and more

AD BUZZ

THE SCENE SHIFTS FROM [illegible] to Thailand's Pattaya resort place as the country's creative cream of the crop [illegible] Asia, including New Zealand and Australia. [illegible]

The prize: The Lotus.

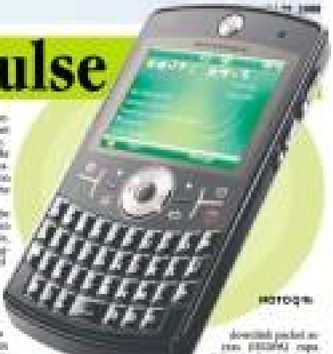
A total of [illegible] entries [illegible] will compete for Lotus [illegible]

"[illegible]" is the theme [illegible]

Four Filipinos are in the jury: [illegible]

Ads/B3-?

Following the consumer pulse



MOTO Q9h



ROKR E8



W230 ORANGE

Four categories

Music madness

Phone for the masses

Productivity phone

Reinvention

Asia Adfest update, Pinoys on creatives list and more



This year's Hottest Asian Creatives list has biggest number of Filipino creatives

Pinoys in creatives list



DONALD Gunn

Check out "The Work"

Pinoy Kid in Olympics

RS Video



The need of institutional markets and high-end users for honey triggered a demand for honey





EDMUND Benavides, Cordillera Beekeeping Federation president, inspects bees in a colony at the CBF honey processing center in [illegible], Baguio City (above). Bees are kept in containers (right).

Beekeepers want more colonies

By Delmar Cariño
Inquirer Northern Luzon

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE LOCAL PRODUCTION of honey is buzzing with excitement these days because of good sales but beekeepers themselves are saying that more honeybee colonies are needed to meet a growing demand.

The Cordillera Beekeepers Federation (CBF), for one, says the honey-making industry has begun to create its own niche in the market to initiate a gradual reduction of the country's dependence on foreign honey.

CBF officials say locally produced honey could only match 20 percent of the yearly domestic need for honey. The rest, or 80 percent, must be imported, Edmund Benavides, CBF president, says.

Benavides, who presided over the CBF's first general assembly here recently, says lack of good forage for bees, poor quality of stocks and lack of technical know-how have kept the local beekeeping industry conservative.

These problems, however, have failed to discourage farmers to become honeybee entrepreneurs since their production for the last few years has always been a sellout at P180 a kilo.

The industry, though, still needs government support to become a major business, Benavides says.

Thanks to the CBF, the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole), the industry has clinched financial assistance needed to boost its commercial success.

Benavides says the CBF is improving its services as a marketing conduit for the honey produced by its more than 200 members in the region.

The marketing device, he says, included a central processing center for CBF members that would put premium on the making of honey-based products to be marketed with Bureau of Food and Drugs approval.

The BFAD's barcode on the honey products would indicate compliance with product standards, he says.

As an association, the CBF also earned from its initial marketing venture. It procured 1,500 kilograms of honey in 2007 which were sold at P280 a kilo, Benavides says.

CBF members drafted the fund for a P1.4-million loan that would be used for technical assistance, training and marketing strategies for Cordillera beekeepers.

The CBF has 834 colonies under its care. Benavides says at least P8,000 would be needed to maintain each colony.

But more colonies are needed, he says. Coupled with good forage that would improve pollination, one colony, which is the home of 10,000 to 50,000 bees, could produce 20 to 30 kilograms of honeybee per harvest, Benavides says.

The Beekeeping Organization Association of the Philippines Inc. (Boapi) has thrown its support to the CBF particularly on the completion of a honey processing center.

Orlando Ballogoing, Boapi president, says even the group's more than 700 members nationwide are smiling over the support the DA gave.

The DA, he says, recently released P20 million for technical and financial assistance to the country's beekeeping industry.

The amount was released through the DA's National Agriculture Research and Development Institute based at the Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University in Bacnotan, La Union.

The Boapi has started putting up a processed center in La Union worth P5 million that was taken from the P20 million fund.

Just like the CBF in the Cordillera, La Union has also organized its beekeepers through the La Union Beekeepers Development Cooperative.

"The market is very big for honeybees. Our present quota is just too low," Ballogoing says.

Benavides says the need of institutional markets and high-end users for honey had triggered a surge in demand for honey.

Honey, he said, is a good substitute for syrup used by fast food chains in their pancakes and other products.

He urged local officials to advocate a development plan for beekeeping in their areas since the industry offered good returns, whether operated as a full-time or sideline business.

BUSINESS Friday

'Being new in marketing, what is the right marketing attitude to take?'

MARKETING Rx

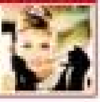
Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

Thriving on bread alone

Computer analyst gives up promising US career to knead dough



HAVE A GOOD DAY!



"The more I hear of man landing on the moon, the more I look my true."
—Audrey Hepburn, actress

LIFESTYLE

Editor: Thelma Sioson San Juan

A bittersweet homecoming for Lesley Mobo

Manila ignored him years ago, but London embraced him—and how

By Alex Y. Vergara

LONDON-BASED Filipino designer Lesley Mobo was last night's featured designer in the Ayala Group of Companies' just-concluded tribute to local artists dubbed as "Ikaw Filipino."

He showed a 40-piece collection, his first-ever solo show, inspired by a Spanish village ...

It was a bittersweet homecoming for Mobo. Nine years after the biology graduate from the ...

▸ BITTERSWEET /C2



MOBO: "I'm overwhelmed by all this attention."

Shop and (do) spa

Tantoco sisters-in-law give guests sneak peek into summer lines













SHOPPERS get free manicure.





MOBO'S moodboard of swatches and sketches

A bittersweet homecoming for Lesley Mobo



DESPITE the absence of color, the designer's dress is full of details.

Easy, indie-rock frocks for Spring-Summer



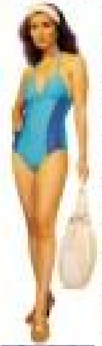
THE EDGY ROMANTIC VIBE IS AN interesting highlight in the DKNY Jeans Spring-Summer 2008 collection.

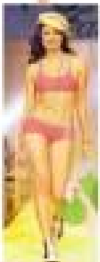


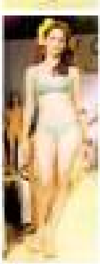




Avon Fashions marks 15th year











BAGS from Kenneth Cole's Summer 2009 collection



CHRISTOPHER Rourke, HSBC SVP and head of marketing and product development; [illegible]

Bank gives out premium goodies

[illegible]



KENNETH Cole Reaction wallet and key fob gift set for HSBC





PHOTO by Denise Weldon, jewelry by Candy Dizon

Photo exhibit celebrates baby's skin

[illegible]

Modeling workshop

[illegible]

FASHION

LIFESTYLE

Contributing Editors
Apples Aberin-Sadhwani
and Jenni Epperson



Smart summer style

Chic ways to stretch your budget

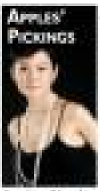
BLACK-AND-GRAY striped tank, gray trousers, and printed obi-inspired sash, all by DKNY



BLACK-AND-WHITE printed shirt dress and green satin satchel, both by DKNY

Summer-izing your wardrobe

Simplify! Go for clean yet stylish silhouettes



APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

As if overnight, after Lent, the city has turned into a sweltering urban jungle. How do you stay chic and fresh in your corporate attire?

One word: Simplify! Shed the layers and complicated combinations, and go for clean, ultra-simple yet stylish silhouettes.

Opt for boxy, billowy dresses you can cinch at the waist with a trendy wide belt. Or a simple shift dress with color blocking or prints for more interesting summery look, matched with patent sandals for a bit of shine.

Some establishments require you to be in a suit or jacket. Choose one of weightless fabric, with no lining. Although the jacket looks less structured, it still looks corporate but cool and fresh.

Airy, "breathable" fabrics like cotton or cotton pique and linen are the best options. The heat travels freely through the fabric.

Some worry that such fabrics wrinkle easily, resulting in unkempt look. However, a softly rumpled appearance is acceptable nowadays. If you're still uncomfortable with the look, use starch spray to give the fabric more body and structure.

Choice of color is also important. Lighter colors are more apt for summer but there's no rule that says you should eschew dark colors. A pair of black trousers from last season, for instance, can be worn with a dove gray cotton pique tunic top.

Another style option would be printed pieces that combine dark colors like black with lighter hues such as gray, white or tan. Pops of color in monotone or complementary pieces like tank tops or sashes are also a way of summer-izing one's corporate look, while metallic or patent bags and shoes can help add texture and shine to a potentially flat, matte appearance.

Still, no matter how stuffy it gets this summer, remember that when dressing for a corporate environment, a bit of modesty is called for. Save the ultra sexy spaghetti tops for the weekend, unless it's worn underneath a jacket or light cardigan. And make sure those sun dresses are not too sheer or clingy.

The bottom line is this: style and comfort are not mutually exclusive. With a little imagination and effort, you can dress fashionably even during the hot and humid summer months.

E-mail the author at [illegible]@inquirer.com.ph

Photography Aldwin Aspillera
Styling [illegible]
Makeup Bambi Fuentes for Lancome
Hair Bea Mia
Clothes DKNY
DKNY is exclusively distributed by Stores Specialists, Inc. (SSI) and is located at Greenbelt 3, The Power Plant Mall, Rustan's Makati, [illegible] Boulevard Alabang Town Center.
Shot on location at the Hotel InterContinental Manila

Glossary of summer fabrics

CHIFFON
Sheer fabric that's usually used for eveningwear; can be made of silk, nylon or rayon.

COTTON
Absorbent and comfortable in hot weather, it is a vegetable fiber that comes from the seed-hairs of the cotton plant.

COTTON PIQUE
A double woven fabric normally ribbed or woven in a pattern called waffle pique. The texture of cotton pique adds coolness to the natural fiber.

CREPE
A [illegible] fabric that's ideal for everyday corporate wear. Can be made of silk or cotton, as well as wool or blends for the cooler seasons.

GABARDINE
Multi-seasonal fabric that's perfect for tailored pieces. It has a matte finish and drapes beautifully when made of silk.

GINGHAM
Checked fabric made of cotton, often associated with picnic tablecloths or life in the farm.

LINEN
Vegetable fiber that is more absorbent than cotton. Woven from the stems of flax and is generally used for summer clothing.

PONGEE
Ribbed fabric made of cotton or silk but can also be made of wool and rayon, commonly used for dresses or drapes.

SEERSUCKER
Cotton fabric that's striped—usually white and another color, with the colored stripe crinkled or blistered.

SHANTUNG
A kind of silk that is more unevenly woven, it is perfect for dressier events during the hot summer season.

SILK
Made from the cocoon of silkworms, it is a very fine fiber that is the strongest among all natural fibers. Lightweight and can be worn all year round.

Sources: "Chic Simple Women's Wardrobe," and "Chic Simple What Should I Wear?"



FUCHSIA-AND-GRAY striped dress, gray coat, striped obi belt, gray patent T-strap platforms and brown handbag, all by DKNY



FUCHSIA-AND-GRAY printed dress with obi sash, and gray patent T-strap platforms, both by DKNY



COLOR-BLOCK shift dress and gray patent T-strap platforms, both by DKNY

Seven pieces, seven ways

Chiffon top + chiffon skirt





Black knit top + slim-cut jeans



Orange blouse + white shorts

Chiffon top + white shorts

Look cool and relaxed for dressed-down Sundays with the family.



7 pieces to mix and match

do-it-yourself do-it-yourself do-it-yourself do-it-yourself do-it-yourself do-it-yourself do-it-yourself do-it-yourself

Orange kimono with obi-style sash + slim-cut jeans



Maximize your clothes budget—a busy entrep shows you how

Seven pieces, seven ways

By Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

THE MODERN WOMAN wears many hats that she juggles gracefully and graciously. She is a career woman, mother, wife, friend and many other incarnations.



Bubble jacket + black knit top + chiffon skirt



Bubble jacket + white shorts

LIFESTYLE

BEAUTY

PIMENT BRÛLANT (HOT PIMENTO) BY L'ARTISAN

[illegible]



MAGOT ETRO PERFUME BY ETRO

[illegible]



How to make scents last longer

It's like a relationship that must work both ways

[illegible]

KNOCKOUT!



Ria Francisco-Prieto



AQUA ALLEGORIA BY GUERLAIN

[illegible]



[illegible]

MAKE SCENTS LAST LONGER

How to layer fragrances



ACQUA DI PORTOFINO

From page 81

Citrus. Light and fresh. Main ingredients are citrus fruits such as oranges, lemons and bergamots.

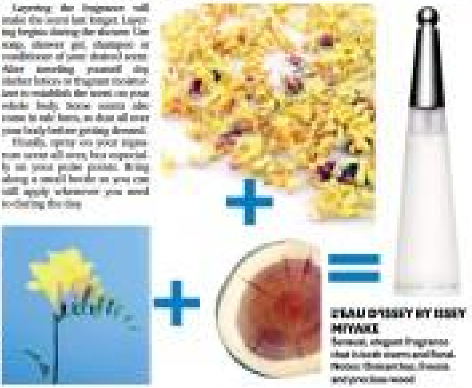
Floral. Sweet and ultra feminine. Made from one or more flowers.

Earthy. Subdued and clean. Sandalwood, honey and vanilla are common notes.

Musky. Strong and sexy.

Application tips

Apply the fragrance on your pulse points such as the base of your throat, behind the ear and wrist.



L'EAU D'ISSEY BY ISSEY MIYAKE

Save your makeup from breakup

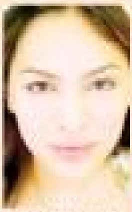


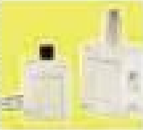
Protect your cosmetics from summer bacteria

GENERAL RULE: Keep makeup away from direct sunlight and heat. Light and heat destroy the preservatives that protect makeup from bacteria.



Beauty treats for both sexes









How he maintains his mane



RALPH Cornes







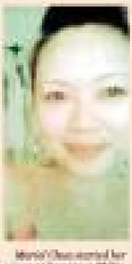
The new 'it' nail polish

NEW YORK—THE











UniMart
LET'S CELEBRATE AT 38!
UNIMART'S ANNIVERSARY SALE
Sale Period: March 28 to April 20, 2008
Anniversary Sale also happening at
CASH & CARRY
Underwood
P70.00
P84.50
Lender's
P107.50
Post
Grape-Nuts Cereal
P113.50
Comstock
P133.95
P133.95
Magnolia
Magnolia
Magnolia
Fleischman's
Oishi
Gardenia
CRUNCH
Nestlé
Post
Cadbury
UFC
Libby's
Knorr
Purefoods
Slim-Fast
Sunkist
Pepsi
Coca Cola
Johnson's
Colgate
Olay
Johnson's
P262.90
Apex
Mr. Muscle
Ariel

Beauty care limitations for the pregnant woman

MAKEOVER 911



> I have to steer clear of some stuff 3 to 6 months--before my pregnancy



Tips

Whitening

Belo's mag

Derm center



LIFESTYLE

Mall opens wing for young designers

The retail formula catches on, this time appealing to 'ADB crowd'

Text by Cheche V Moral
Photos by [illegible]

FASHION RETAIL IN THE Ortigas area gets a shot in the arm as a wing for young designer-entrepreneurs opens at The Podium.

Market Palazzo, on the mall's fourth level, is aimed at the "ADB crowd," the collective tag for denizens of ADB Avenue and the Ortigas business district.

It has 11 boutiques owned by young upstarts, including relatively known names like Louis Claparols, Mitzi Quilendrino and [illegible].

While the name Market Palazzo, according to mall manager Christine [illegible], was derived from a similarly named Dubai market, the merchandise here are all-Filipino and original designs of the young boutique owners.

There's Rugged Bros, a colorfully conceptualized joint founded by Jeffrey [illegible], who designs menswear. With him are [illegible], who makes cocktail and long dresses; Michelle [illegible], who does a casual line called Mimi; [illegible] and Jona Baltazar, the duo behind the bag line [illegible].

Tina Navarro, 32, the woman behind the popular line [illegible], debuts a menswear line called Navarro, which sprang from her husband's need for affordable yet stylish office wear.

Jona Mendoza, 25, and Gail Angeles, 28, had their first shot at retail in weekend bazaars. They each got their permanent trading space here with their respective shops.

Mendoza's V boutique caters to a good range, "from teens to their moms," but the bulk of her clientele are office women who like classic [illegible]

MALL OPENS/F2



NAVARRO by Tina Navarro



HOT Pink by Kaye Garcia



CENTRALE Mario Jomay and Hazel Santos

Mall opens wing for young designers



RUGGED Door designers Wesjaz Pronova, Michelle Formento, Jens Balseron, Jeffrey Augustin and Yana Reyes



RADIUS Prüdenvue by Kristine Calleja and Robin Ramos



LIMB by Dimple Lim

From page F1

loved pieces that go from day to night.

Angelee Wisdom has "comfortable and girly" pieces, including floral dresses—a counterpoint to her neighbors, like Dimple Lim's Limb, which has edgier and more avant-garde clothes. Lim was into interior design before fashion. Her friend Regina Dalisay, another rising name, consigns at Limb.

Marked Palomo closes to push the envelope, with Radius Prüdenvue. Owned by Kristine Calleja and Robin Ramos, the store sells "alternative lifestyle" statement T-shirts for women with "unmistaken ladies." (A tee reads: "Let's Get Something Straight"; at the back: "I'm Not.")

Similar setup

Mathay said the success of a young designer-entrepreneur wing in an upscale Makati mall convinced them the same formula would work at The Podium. Most of the RTW clothes are affordable, and of limited quantity—a deal that appeals to the ADB crowd.

Bringing in recognizable names like Quiñones adds cachet to the place, Mathay said. At Bobon, Quiñones has pieces from his recent gala collection. Claparols' boutique called Stella has both his womenswear and racks devoted to the designs of Quilantang, Eric de los Santos and Noel Mangaoil's Kaisey casuals for men.

Hazel Santos, who ditched her vintage-wear label Pike at Power Plant Mall's Archaeology, relaunches here with Centrale, selling pieces by other designer-friends.

Hot Pink, the four-year-old lingerie line owned by Kaye Garcia, has also opened. Catering to women age 25-up, it has fun and playful boudoir pieces designed for the Filipina frame.

Laura, a jewelry store, rounds up the lineup, with owner Laura de Guzman's statement pieces: show-stopping cocktail rings of precious and semiprecious stones, Arts and Crafts-style necklaces, and a selection of delicately beaded evening purses.



LAURA de Guzman (inset) and her jewelry designs





DREXX (right) by Jana Mendoza Lobowicz for V boutique



OASIS by Puey Quiñones

ERIC de los Santos dress for Stella Manila





BOBON by Puey Quiñones





LOUIS Claparols' collection for Stella Manila (left) and Wisdom by Gail Angeles

Postage stamp-shaped face on a watch

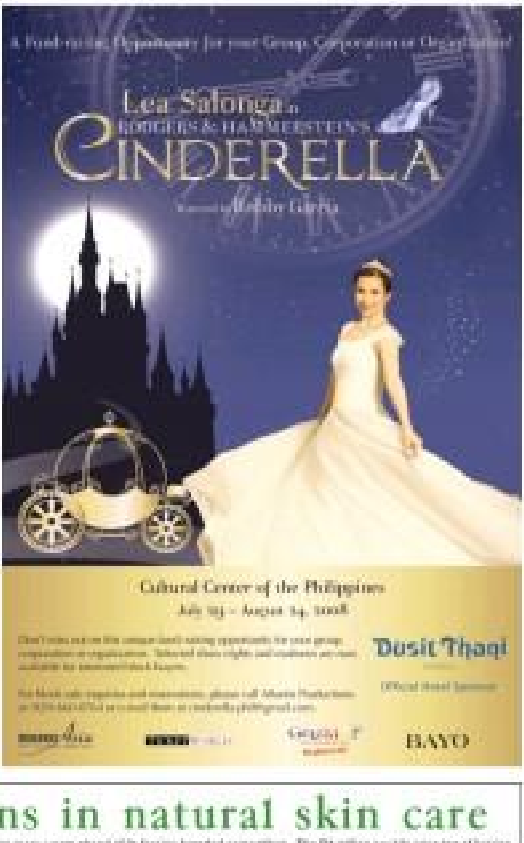








There's a USB inside this gem



Godiva innovations in natural skin care

FOR PINK LIPS AND NIPS



WASH AND WEAR SUNBLOCK



SUNSCREEN AS EASY AS WASH AND WEAR

JELLYFISH STING PROTECTION



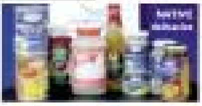




Christine Bersola and mom open summer bazaar









Interesting night race set tomorrow



LifeStyle





CLUTCH of wood and laser-cut leather

RAFE Totengco at his new store in Greenbelt 5

Rafe Totengco opens Manila store, finally

'I'm sort of the anti-logo,' says the NY-based designer who prefers his business 'small and special'

First free-standing shop

Caution



A. LIPIN



PUGAD BABOY



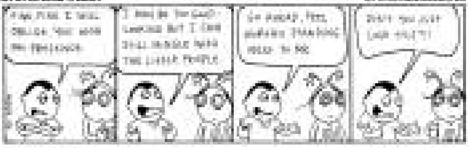
GARFIELD



BABY BLUES



ATOMO AND WEBBY



LOVEKNOTS



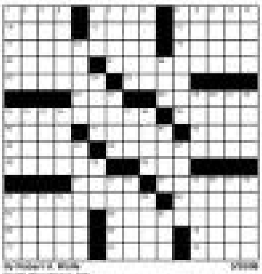
KIKO MACHINE



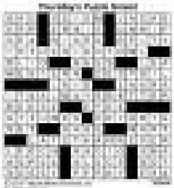
BEN



DAILY CROSSWORD



Thursday's Puzzle Solved



HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

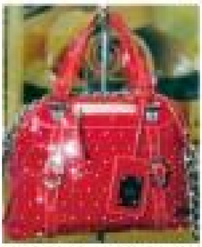
	3						9	
			2	4	9			
		7				8		
	4			2			7	
	9		6		7		3	
	6			5			1	
		2				6		
			7	6	8			
	1						4	

Difficulty Level ★★★★

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Answer to previous puzzle







CLUTCH of Spanish canvas and wood





SANDALS and clutch from the Spring 2008 collection

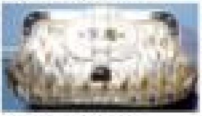


Rafe Totengco opens Manila . . .



ROPE and canvas platform sandals





METALLIC woven leather clutch

Fajardo launches ...



LIGHT-COLORED suit works best for daytime meetings, especially during summer.



A KNITTED vest is also a stylish way of warding off the chill in air-conditioned offices.

Fajardo launches men's line

By Alex Y. Vergara

AS HE EXPANDS HIS BUSINESS to include men's corporate wear, RTW designer Boyet Fajardo is resorting to the tried-and-tested ways that have made him a big name among mature and plus-size women for nearly two decades now.

But unlike his women's line, which is sold in 35 outlets nationwide, his introductory line of men's suits, shirts, pants and ties is for younger, average-size males in their 20s and 40s.

"Regardless of the market, I always make it a point to produce wearable and classic pieces," said Fajardo.

The designer's shirts are made from a blend of durable and wrinkle-resistant cotton and polyester fabrics. Given the humid weather, he uses a blend of light wool and viscose for suits.

> His was a circuitous route to success—and good business

Foreign subcontractors

Fajardo has neither business partners nor assistant designers in both ventures. Foreign subcontractors manufacture his line almost exclusively abroad.

"My men's items are made mostly in Hong Kong and Cambodia," said Fajardo. "Even if I want my stuff to be manufactured here to provide jobs for Filipinos, I can't because labor costs have become too expensive."

In keeping with his working-class clientele, Fajardo has managed to keep his price points remarkably low: P2,995 to P3,995 for a business jacket, P800 to P999 for a pair of pants, and P899 to P999 for a long-sleeve, cotton-blend shirt.

Fajardo plans to beef up his men's line soon by adding formal pieces such as dinner jackets and barongs.

"I have plenty of reasons to feel optimistic," he said. "I may have a strong following among women, but men hardly know me. This, however, hasn't stopped them from buying my clothes."

Fajardo's pricing scheme has also made his dresses and separates quite popular among office women, while attracting a fair share of more affluent businesswomen and ladies who lunch.

"Almost everybody is looking for clothes that are stylish yet practical," he said. "Then, to a lesser degree, we also open to trends as long as these trends suit their lifestyles."

Full circle

As a designer, Fajardo has come full circle. Soon after getting a fine arts degree at the University of Santo Tomas in the early 1980s, he designed made-to-order clothes for men before shifting to women's wear.



MADE of light wool and viscose, Fajardo's suits are fit for the country's tropical climate.



A CARDIGAN, worn here with a pair of flat-front slim pants, is a younger, less formal alternative to the business jacket.

LifeStyle

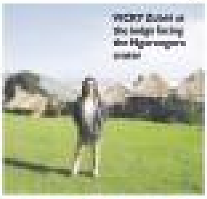


Tina Ocampo makes it

Success is in the bag, as Celestina becomes a celeb must-have





















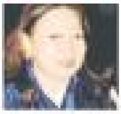
















Birthday treat in Zanzibar, Boracay and HK

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Hong Kong

Drink it like Beckham

Santana

Woman who knows how men should smell









GOINGS ON

Benefit concert for poor kids

A MUSICAL PRODUCTION TITLED "Child's Play" in support of the Center for Excellence in Public Elementary Education (Cenpee) will be staged on April 1, 7 p.m., by De La Salle-College of St. Benilde Arts Management students at the Black Box Theater, 9/F, School of Design and Arts Building. Cenpee is a [illegible] organization under the Ayala Foundation that aids children from economically disadvantaged families to have good education. Call 0920-2495848 or 5367211.

Musical on the Risen Lord

A worship concert titled "Now I See You: An Easter Experience of the Risen Lord" will be held April 23, 6:30 p.m., at the Frontline Worship Center in Maharlika Highway, San Pablo City, Laguna. Featured artist is the San Pablo [illegible] Ecumenical Chorale Singers to be conducted by [illegible]. Call 0920-[illegible].

Play on corporate careers

[illegible] directs the Philippine premiere of German playwright Ingrid Lausund's "Slipped Disc: A Study of the Upright Walk," a play about corporate careers, to be presented in Salcedo Village, Makati. The play is about five office workers, three men and two women, who are outside the boss' office waiting for a fateful meeting. The [illegible] [illegible], a [illegible] and [illegible] have spent night after night rehearsing in front of the mirror for this meeting, [illegible] the [illegible] for the [illegible] with the boss. "Slipped Disc: A Study of the Upright Walk" will have performances today, 8 p.m.; March 29, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.; and March 30, 4 p.m., at [illegible], 5/L, [illegible] Center, 121 L.P. Leviste St., Salcedo Village, Makati. Admission is free, but due to limited seating, call 8173836.

Book club tackles Murakami novel

PowerBook Book Club will hold a discussion on Haruki Murakami's "Kafka on the Shore," a magnificent novel [illegible] by two [illegible] and [illegible] characters: a teenage boy, Kafka Tamura, who runs away from home to escape an Oedipal prophecy, and an elderly simpleton called Nakata, who is drawn to Kafka and whose mental handicap allows him to converse with cats. Their mysterious and parallel narratives are [illegible] by [illegible] and [illegible]. Readers encounter characters from popular culture such as Johnnie Walker and Kentucky Fried Chicken's Colonel Sanders. The discussion will be held today, 7 p.m., at PowerBooks Trinoma. Register at any PowerBooks branch or participate in the PowerBook Club. Call 9431091-92.

New Voice Company theater workshop

The New Voice Company offers Musical Theatre and Acting for Teens and Adults. This course is aimed at students (12 years old and above) who will have classes in acting, singing and movement—which include chorus work, solo work, acting approach, scene studies and improvisation. No previous experience is necessary, but all students are expected to participate fully in the course, and can decide to concentrate on either a Musical Theatre or Acting [illegible] final showcase. Workshop classes run from April 8-June 1. Classes will be held Tuesdays and Fridays, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m., at the New Voice Company Actors Studio, [illegible] St., San Antonio Village, Makati. The final showcase will be held at PCBC Theater, Ayala Avenue, Makati, on June 1. Call 8956990 or [illegible], or e-mail [illegible].

Gantimpala Theater workshops

Gantimpala Theater once again holds Acting in Musical Theater for Teens and Adults, a specially designed workshop where singing, movements and acting classes are combined to prepare workshopper-actors for musical theater productions. A musical recital will be the culminating production of the workshop. Gantimpala Theater's Acting in Musical Theater for Teens and Young Adults is on April 14-May 18. Classes are every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 1-4 p.m. Call 5280009, 5280080, 0921-5286288, or e-mail gantimpalatheater[illegible]@yahoo.com.ph.

Peta classes

The Creative Musical Theater class offers four weeks of fun and games, creative drama sessions, creative songwriting, creative improvisations, movement explorations, music sessions and vocalization exercises. The Creative Dance Theater explores body movements as a medium of artistic expression. Participants for both classes must be at least 17 years old and must show interest in music, acting and movement. Workshop starts April 15 and ends May 10, 6-10 p.m. at the Peta Theater Center, 5 Eymard Drive, New Manila, Quezon City. Call 4106821, 7256244, 0917-[illegible] or 0916-[illegible].

Tina Ocampo ...

[illegible]



SANDRA Bullock with [illegible] clutch



EVA Longoria [illegible]



[illegible]

Colorful shoes for toddlers

[illegible]





[illegible]

Fun fashion events at Makati mall

[illegible]



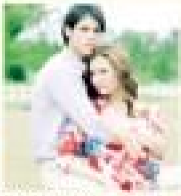
HALTER [illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]



[illegible]

LIVING Stars

Editor Brenda C. Velasco



THE KIDS are thrilled to meet Donald and Daisy Duck in Hong Kong Disneyland.

Santiagos in fantasyland

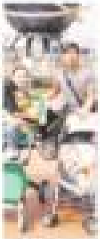


By Rayani San Diego Jr.

WHEN THE SANTIAGOS traveled to Hong Kong Disneyland last month, they brought the entire barangay.

[illegible]













LOVI POE

I DECIDED TO READ RICHARD PELZER'S "A TEENAGER's Journey: Surviving Adolescence" before his brother David Pelzer's "A Child Called It." I heard that David's book is quite harsh, so I started with Richard's. These books are based on true stories. The Pelzers grew up with a cruel mother who abused them, and yet they survived. Reading Richard's book has made me realize how blessed I am. I was introduced to "Tuesdays with Morrie" in my Literature class. I like it because it offers lots of lessons about life.

Reynard San Diego Jr.

BOOKS



ASSUNTA DE ROSSI

Reynard San Diego Jr.

CHEER FACTOR

Beautiful relations

LOS ANGELES... THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES MAY HAVE THEIR QUALITIES... AND also some in their families, according to a genealogical study linking Hillary Clinton to Angelina Jolie and Barack Obama to Brad Pitt. The New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston on Wednesday released a study in which it traced the family trees of all three presidential candidates to find they all had famous relatives, both dead and alive. Reuters

Jennica says she not like her mom, and tells us why

By Marinel R. Cruz



THE YOUNG actress with brother



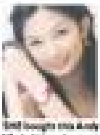
FLAIR-colored tops are for hanging out with friends. Dressy tops are for special occasions.

Footwear

Memorabilia

Accessories

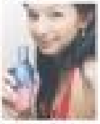
Gadgets



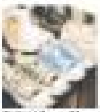
SHE bought this Andy Warhol watch with her hard-earned money.



JENNICA shows a picture of her all-time crush, Zanjoe Marudo, tucked in her wallet.



"PERFUMES make me sneeze," says Jennica. "But I like Island Kiss by Escada."



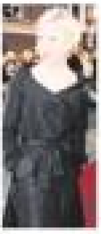
SHE HAS over 30 pairs of Converse sneakers.

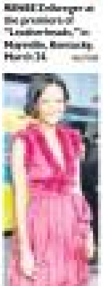
Shirts

Scents

Eyewear

Red Carpet



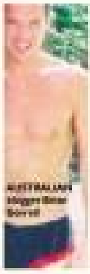


ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Ramon G. Velarde



INSIDE



AUSTRALIAN Maggie Bear Bored

- **Reality TV and cyber reality** Exclusive/J4
- **The shape of things to come** Viewpoint/J3
- **New TV show stars yummy playmates** Kid Fit/J4



- **Keanu wants a singing role** in Hollywood/J4

Shape of things to come

WHEN FILMS FIRST CAME INTO BEING, they were very short, in black and white, silent, and content to merely observe reality from a fixed position.

After early audiences got bored with this space and busy format, producers added simple story lines, or filmed popular stage pieces.

Later, non-stage performers were discovered, and put in front of the motion picture camera. [illegible]

[illegible]

Voice and color

[illegible]

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

[illegible]

'Indiana Jones'

Directed by Steven Spielberg, produced by George Lucas and starring Harrison Ford, "Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" is the fourth film of the popular series. [illegible]

Cate Blanchett plays a villainous Russian agent [illegible]

ABC 5 inks deal with Malaysian firm

ABC 5 HAS INKED A "Major Blockbuster Agreement" with MPB Primedia, Inc., a Philippine corporation backed by Media Prima Berhad of Malaysia. ABC 5 president and CEO Antonio O. Cojuangco announced the deal on Tuesday. He said that the deal would "ensure a steady and sustainable flow of innovative programming" for the channel. MPB Primedia Inc. will "produce and source most of the entertainment shows, while ABC 5 will continue to be responsible for news programming and station operation."

Bayani San Diego Jr.

RP lands global co-prod deals in HK film market



RP DELEGATES in the film mart, from left: FPEDO chair Digna Santiago, filmmaker Dante Mendoza, FDCP executive director Leo Bacaro, CreaM president Imee Marcos and FDCP chair Jacky Atienza, with Cannes Film Fest's Jovanie Sagay (third from right).

By Marinel R. Cruz

TWO INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTION outfits have committed to make four films here, according to the Philippine delegates to the recently concluded 12th Hong Kong International Film and TV Market.

[illegible]

Digital distribution

[illegible]

E-mail: [illegible]

2007's Metro Manila Film Festival [illegible]

Reality TV, virtual reality

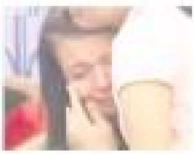
PBB psychologist analyzes the ongoing online telenovela that has momentarily swept aside show biz intrigues



Simply curious













Keanu Reeves bares wish to sing and dance on film

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales



No politics

Harrowing stories

High expectations

'Kids on Q' in Taiwan int'l TV tilt

KID FIT



Dora in Manila



Jollibee's TV debut

